GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2806
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES
Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing structure and the functions assigned to Primary Health Centres(PHCs) is commensurate with the basic health requirements of the rural people;

(b) if so,the details thereof outlining the role of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA);and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revamp the PHCs in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes,Sir.Primary Health Centre (PHC) is the first contact point between village community and the Medical Officer. A PHC is opened on the basis of population,caseload/workload and distance. It is manned by a Medical Officer and other staff.It acts as a referral Unit for 4-6 Sub-Centres and has 4-6 beds for patients. It performs curative,preventive,promotive and Family Welfare services.As on March,2007,there are a total of 22370 PHCs functioning across the nation.Indian Public Health Standards speficying human resources,physical Infrastructure,equipments and service guarantees have been formulated for PHCs.

(b) ASHA is a health activist in the community who creates awareness on health and its social determinants and mobilizes the community towards local health planning and increased utilization and accountability of existing health services.She is a promoter of good health practices.

(c) Upgradation of PHCs is an ongoing process.Under National Rural Health Mission(NRHM),funds are released to State/UT Governments for upgradation of existing PHCs and for establishment of new PHCs on the basis of annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) submitted by the States which are approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC).These funds are released as a flexipool for states to be spent on the basis of activities prioritized by them under the Flexipool approved by the NPCC.